

SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA PLANTS.  
I. MOREHOUSE PARISH.

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This paper initiates a series of articles reporting uncommon plants in Louisiana. Each article will be based on a Masters of Science Thesis at Northeast Louisiana University by the junior author and under the strict supervision of the senior author. Each article will report those plants new to the state but will also discuss uncommon Louisiana plants that have been collected in that particular parish.

Each thesis project serves a two-fold function. It gives the student a broad background in vascular plant identification in which he or she learns to identify about one thousand species in the field. It also adds detailed information on which plants are in a specific parish. This information along with other studies will be used in writing a checklist, atlas, and eventually a manual of the flora of Louisiana. This flora project was begun at NLU by Dr. R. Dale Thomas in 1966 and it continues today with the help of Dr. Charles M. Allen of Louisiana State University at Eunice. Several duplicates are available for exchange from this flora project.

Four state records were collected from Morehouse Parish (Pias 1978 and Thomas, Cox, Dawson, and Gough 1980). The citations are as follows.

Hypoxis longii Fern. Pine woods south of La. 834 west of Jones, Sec. 14, T23N, R7E. R. Dale Thomas and family. 23285. 4 June 1971. Only one specimen was collected. This plant and another one from Claiborne Parish were determined by Dr. John Taylor of Southeast Oklahoma State University who has collected this species in Oklahoma. Several later trips to the two sites were fruitless.

Asclepias syriacus L. Rights-of-way of U.S. 165 and railroad one mile south of Bonita, Sec. 12, T22N, R7E. R. Dale Thomas and Pat Pias. 55259 & 1941. 15 September 1977. This species was not listed from Louisiana by Woodson (1954). It has also been collected by Thomas from Lincoln Parish.

Polygonum sachaliense F. Schmidt. Large colony beside La. 138, 0.2 miles south of railroad south of Collinston, Sec. 7, T19N, R6W. R. Dale Thomas and Pat Pias. 57545 & 3907. 13 April 1978. This species was not listed from the state by Horton (1972).

Matricaria matricarioides (Less.) Porter. The earliest collection of this plant from Louisiana is from East Carroll Parish: weed along edge of cotton field beside U.S. 65 north of Gassoway at Arkansas State Line. R. Dale Thomas and Carole Crews. 38228. 24 March 1974. The Morehouse site is: Along U.S. 165, 2 miles south of Bonita, Sec. 13, T22N, R7E. R. Dale Thomas and Pat Pias. 16 May 1977. It was collected in an adjoining section in 1978.

Two other rare plants were collected during this study. Hackelia virginiana (L.) I. M. Johnston was collected along the Mississippi River in Madison Parish in 1971. It has recently been collected in Morehouse, Tensas, and East Carroll Parishes. Triosteum angustifolium L. was collected by Thomas in Caddo Parish in 1974. It is now also known from Morehouse and Richland parishes.

Two uncommon Louisiana plants have been destroyed in Morehouse Parish. Castanea dentata (Marsh.) Borhk. was collected from a large tree over 100 years old in the edge of a pine woods in a back yard in Beekman. It has been so severely pruned to prevent the tree from bearing fruit (The owner said the burrs stuck in his daughter's bare feet) that it died. Another tree is known from the state in Webster Parish. Ruellia nudiflora (Gray) Urban grew along La. 134 but was destroyed by the Louisiana Department of Highways while doing bridge construction. This plant is scattered in south Louisiana but no other population is known from the northern part of the state.

Two recent introductions into northeast Louisiana have been collected in Morehouse Parish and show a lot of potential of becoming noxious weeds. Ipomoea turbinata Lag. occurs near Bayou Galion and is an extremely fast growing vine in cotton fields. Malachra capitata L. is becoming a common cotton field weed because of its resistance to the common herbicides used with that crop.

Several other uncommon plants were collected during this study. Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Her. was collected in a cemetery in Oak Ridge--it also occurs in Natchitoches Parish. Dryopteris celsa (W. Palmer) Small was reported from Morehouse Parish new to Louisiana (Thomas, Wagner, and Mesler 1973) from a cypress swamp near Collinston. The same swamp has Sabatia calycina (Lam.) A. Heller, Habenaria flava (L.) R. Br., Carya leiodermis Sarg., and Carya myristicaeformis Michx. f. in it.

Several uncommon plants were collected in the pine woods and gorges west of Bayou Bartholomew and west of Jones. These include Erigeron pulchellus Michx., Heliopsis gracilis Nutt., Parthenium hispidum Raf., Solidago hispida Muhl., Triosteum angustioflum L., Silene virginica L., Tragia cordata Michx., Obolaria virginica L., Listera australis Lindl., Phlox divaricata L., Hedyotis caerulea (L.) T. & G. and Hedyotis purpurea (L.) T. & G.

Several other uncommon plants were collected in the other pine woods in the parish. These include Salix tristis Ait. (previously reported by Thomas and Pias 1978), Helianthus silphoides Nutt., Rudbeckia subtomentosa Pursh, Silphium integrifolium Michx., Paronychia fastigiata (Raf.) Fern., Bulbostylis capillaris (L.) Clarke, Psoralea simplex T. & G., Trifolium carolinianum Michx., Gentiana saponaria L., Manisuris rugosa (Nutt.) Kuntze, Oenothera pilosella Raf., Lysimachia lanceolata Walt., Agrimonia parviflora Ait., and Gillenia stipulata (Muhl.) Baill. Corylus americana L. occurs along a creek in pine woods near the Arkansas State Line and Uvularia sessilifolia L. and Smilax herbacea L. occur near a small creek at Log Cabin.

Several uncommon plants were collected along the railroads in Morehouse Parish particularly in Bastrop. These include: Alternanthera polygonoides (L.) R. Dr., Froelichia gracilis (Hook.) Moq., Spermolepis echinata (Nutt.) Heller, Helianthus grosse-serratus Martens, Erysimum repandum L., Arenaria seryplifolia L., Suaeda linearis (Ell.) Moq. and Boerhaavia erecta L.

The rarest aquatics collected were in a cypress swamp west of Jones and Bonita and east of Bayou Bartholomew. These included Armoracia aquatica (Eat.) Wieg., Ceratophyllum echinatum Gray, Decodon verticillatus (L.) Ell. and Hottonia inflata Ell.

## LITERATURE CITED

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